



The President's Daily Brief

19 September 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

LATE ITEM - JORDAN

As we go to press the Cairo wire service reports that Husayn agreed to an immediate cease-fire during another meeting with Nasir's chief of staff. Jordan officials have not confirmed this report, but earlier today Nasir made a public appeal to Husayn for a cease-fire. The US Embassy in Amman reported that the level of fighting was intensifying at dawn today.

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The situation in Jordan is discussed on *Page 1*.

In Cambodia, the government column en route to Kom-
pong Thom has been reinforced. (*Page 3*)

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A new modification has been noted in the Soviet
G-class submarine [redacted]

(*Page 4*)

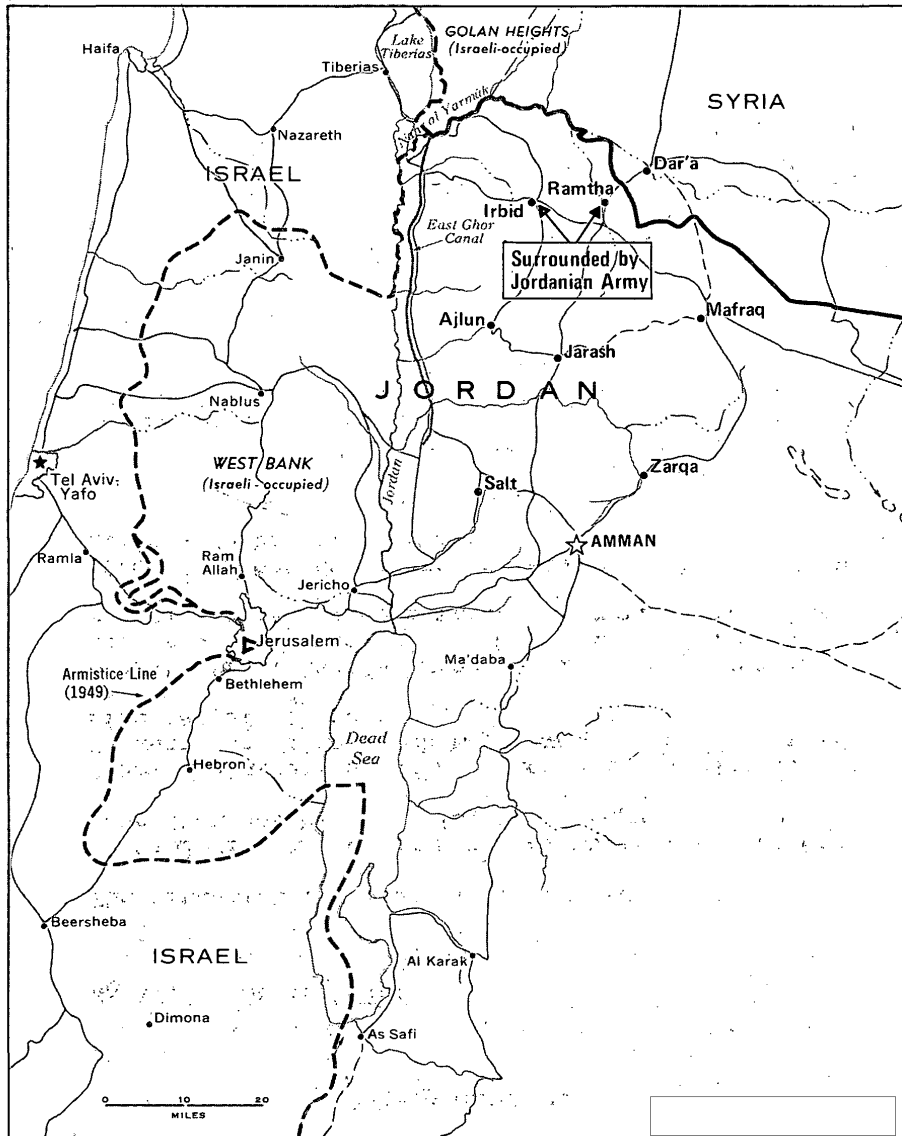
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Danish officials are expecting leftist groups to
create disturbances at the World Bank - Interna-
tional Monetary Fund meeting in Copenhagen. (*Page 5*)

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JORDAN: Current Situation



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JORDAN

Government forces seem to be gaining against stiff fedayeen resistance in Amman. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The US Embassy has come under fire on several occasions but so far all personnel are safe.

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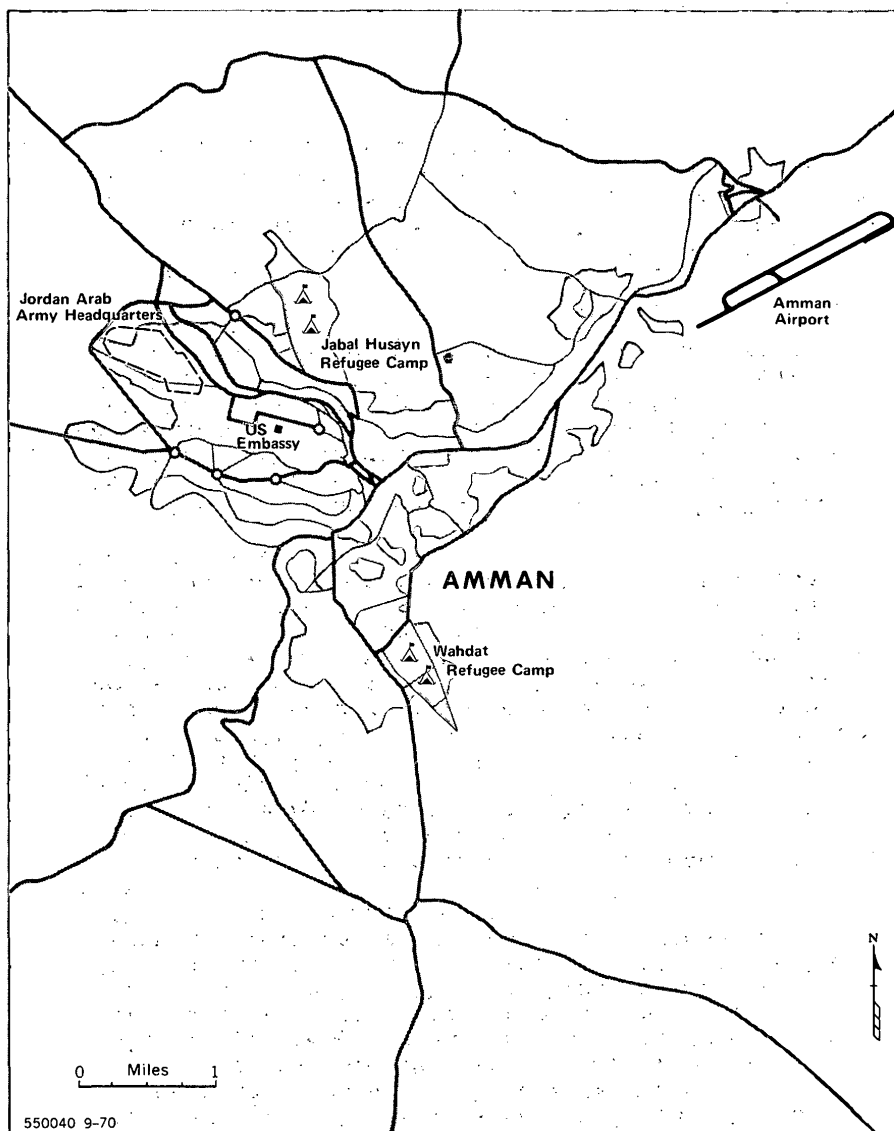
In the north, the fedayeen still control Irbid, but the army is said to be on the outskirts of the city. The army is encircling the key city of Ramtha near the Syrian border. If the army is able to control this region, they will be in an excellent position to cut off fedayeen reinforcements from Syria. Trucks carrying ammunition and weapons have been noted crossing into Jordan in this area. In addition, the Jordanians claim some 50 tanks crossed the frontier yesterday near Dar'a and shelled Jordanian positions. It is not clear whether these tanks belonged to the Syrian Army or to fedayeen contingents.

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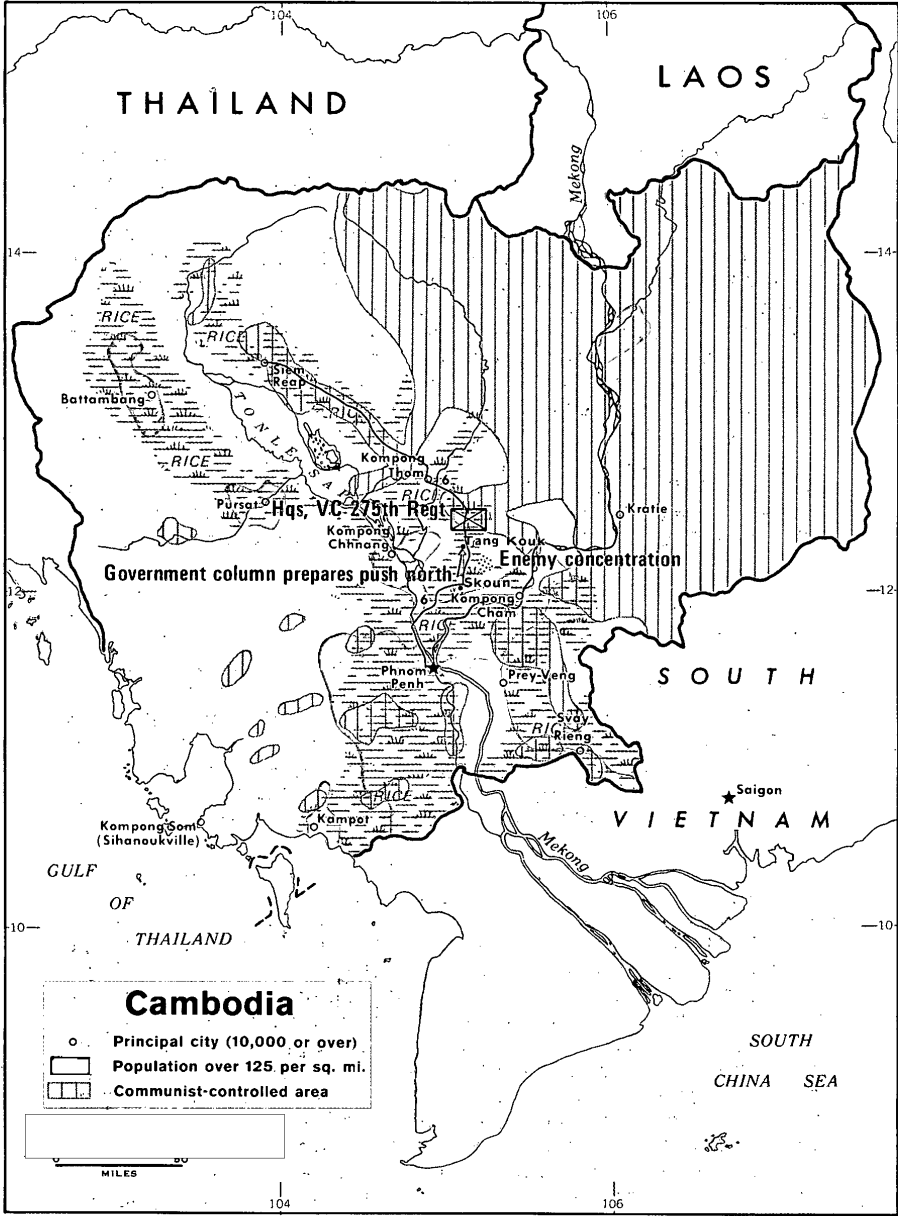


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The Soviets meanwhile have cautioned against Western intervention. Citing the concentration of ships from the US Sixth Fleet off Syria and Lebanon, and British military preparations on Cyprus, TASS warned that any attempt at intervention in Jordan would "entail a new worsening of the conflict" which would "overstep the borders of that country." The Soviets also claim they have made diplomatic representations in Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and Egypt to end the civil war.

A spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said yesterday that the 54 hostages are "in good condition." A senior PFLP official in Beirut told US Embassy officials there that, despite its previous statement, the PFLP was now prepared to negotiate the release of the hostages through the Red Cross. They insist, however, that the negotiations be held in Beirut and quickly, today if possible. The spokesman stressed that the proposal was not made from weakness but for humanitarian reasons. He claimed that as of yesterday afternoon a number of the hostages required medical attention--not because they had been injured in the fighting, but because of their general health. He said that the hostages were housed in areas in which there had been no fighting, but no doctors were available to treat them.

Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

Three fresh Cambodian Army battalions from Kompong Chhnang city reached Skoun yesterday, and subsequently joined the main body of the government column stalled in its drive north toward Kompong Thom. This task force, which has been blocked for most of the week on Route 6 some 13 miles north of Skoun, now consists of nine battalions. Heavy air strikes on suspected enemy positions near the road probably account for the lack of any Communist attacks on the column yesterday. The enemy is still in the area, however, [REDACTED] a large Communist force moved into a position five miles southeast of the column yesterday.

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The government's immediate objective is to clear enemy elements from the village of Tang Kouk, several miles to the north. Even if the column does move through Tang Kouk, however, the continuing presence of elements of the Viet Cong 275th Regiment in this general area indicates the Communists are not likely to permit the column an easy passage for the remainder of its march to Kompong Thom.

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USSR

Recent satellite photography of the Severodvinsk shipyard shows that the hull of one of three G-class submarines now there appears to have been lengthened in the missile bay area.

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NOTES

Denmark: The Danish police are keeping a close watch over extreme left groups who are planning to disrupt the joint World Bank - International Monetary Fund meeting in Copenhagen from 21-25 September.

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The many small and feuding radical splinter groups view the conference as a golden opportunity to attract publicity for their flagging causes and to embarrass the Danish authorities, who have a good record for preserving public order.

South Vietnam:

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